

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 8, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

As you consider legislation to improve our nation's infrastructure, we write to encourage you to provide significant investments in rural communities and small towns. To adequately meet the needs of our rural constituents, we respectfully request no less than \$60 billion for rural development and rural community initiatives.

Rural America is home to vibrant communities that feed, clothe, and build the foundation of our country. As many small towns continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and look toward new opportunities for job creation, we must ensure an equity of investment in rural areas. Congress has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to continue to close the wealth and opportunity gaps in rural America and protect the small town way of life.

President Biden's American Jobs Plan supports rural communities through investments in rural economic development, water and waste systems, broadband, rural business programs, community infrastructure, rural manufacturing, and clean energy. The United States Department of Agriculture has long served rural and agricultural communities through on the ground services and is therefore best suited to provide quality and trustworthy resources to small towns across the nation.

No one should have to choose between leaving their hometown and providing their family with economic opportunity, healthcare, and financial security. It is time for Congress to answer the call for rural investment and deliver on our promise of equal opportunity for all.

Sincerely,



Reverend Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator